

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any other tea trading countries of the world have also got this concession and, if so, whether their exports have also increased?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There are only four countries as far as tea is concerned and, I hope, the hon. Member refers to tea. As far as this question is concerned, the same advantage will go to all.

Closure of Textile Mills

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*1286. **Shri R. S. Pandey:**
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Firodia:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee consisting of officials of some Ministries has recently been constituted to conduct investigations into the affairs of some textile mills which have been closed or are facing closure on account of the financial crisis; and

(b) if so, when the Committee is likely to submit its report?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):

(a) Yes, Sir. Inter-ministerial committees have been appointed for this purpose.

(b) The reports are expected shortly.

Shri R. S. Pandey: Although the majority of the textile mills are going well so far as the production of qualities is concerned, some of the mills are closed down or are facing closure. What concrete steps are they going to take in order to see that production should not suffer and labour should not be unemployed? The moment the mills are closed, labour becomes unemployed and nobody takes care of the labour.

Shri Shafi Qureshi: That is the main reason why we come in. We appoint a committee of investigation

under section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act and that committee goes into the whole affair of the mill and sees whether it is due to mismanagement or financial paucity that the mill is not functioning. The main problem of unemployment is also taken into consideration. It is to see that people are not thrown out, there are no lay-offs, there is no unemployment that we also come in.

Shri R. S. Pandey: It is all right to appoint a committee, but this is just jugglery. Whenever the question comes, the committee is appointed. What steps are going to be taken by Government to help the labour at the time the mills are closed and the labour is unemployed? Have they formulated any scheme to help labour?

Shri Shafi Qureshi: The question is that when the mill is taken over by the Government, wages which are in arrears are paid to the labourers. That way the labour does not suffer.

Shri Daji: Sir, the question is something and the reply is something else. How can we keep quiet then?

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर गया है कि बम्बई में श्री रुइया ने यह बयान दिया है कि बम्बई गवर्नमेंट अगर डी० ए० कम नहीं करेगी तो मिलें बन्द होती चली जाएंगी। सरकार क्यों इन मिलों को अपने हाथ में नहीं लेती? क्यों उनको मौका देती है कि वे धमकियाँ देते चले जायेंगे? क्यों उनको सरकार खुले ग्राम डी० ए० कम करने की घोषणा करने का मौका देती है?

श्री शफी कुरेशी : हमारे डरने का सवाल पैदा नहीं होता है। हम पूरी नजर रखे हुए हैं। जहाँ पर भी मालूम होगा कि कारखानेदार जानबूझ कर कारखानों को नहीं चलाना चाहते हैं या उनको बन्द करना चाहते हैं वहाँ पर हमारे हाथ छोटे नहीं हैं। कानून की गिरफ्त बहुत लम्बी है उनको पकड़ सकते हैं।

श्री तुलशी दास जाधव : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि सरकार के हाथ बहुत मजबूत हैं, बहुत लम्बे हैं। शोलापुर स्पिनिंग एंड वीविंग मिल दो ढाई माल से बन्द पड़ी है। उसके बारे में दो कमेटियां बनाई गई हैं और दोनों की रिपोर्ट आ गई है। अभी तक कुछ कार्रवाई नहीं हुई है। अब तीसरी कमेटी बनाये जाने की बात कही गई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन दो तीन बरसों में सरकार ने इस मिल के बारे में क्या किया है? जो कामगर बेकार हो गए हैं, उनको काम में लगाने के लिए क्या किया है?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री मनुभाई शाह) : यह सवाल सदस्य श्री ने बहुत दफा पूछा है, और मैंने इसका जबाब भी दिया है। शोलापुर मिल को पहले लिया गया था। महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट से उनके एम्प्लायमेंट रिलीफ एक्ट के नीचे। 1951 या 1952 की बात है। इसके बाद जो कमेटी एप्वाइंट हुई वह इंडस्ट्रीज एक्ट के नीचे नहीं थी। उसकी जिम्मेदारी भारत सरकार की नहीं है। फिर भी महाराष्ट्र सरकार से खतो-कताबत की है।

Shri Ranga: It is a sick child.

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is a permanently sick child, but the hon. Member does not accept it. It is my request that once for all the sick child of the textile industry must be taken as written off and a substitute mill of a much larger capacity with modernised equipment should be established there. We have told the Maharashtra Government that and they have accepted that suggestion.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : कपड़ा मिलों के बन्द होने की समस्या है और मिलें घाटे में जाती हैं यह भी एक समस्या है। इन दोनों का सरकार की तरफ से क्या हल निकाला जा रहा है? इस के हल के तौर पर क्या सरकार इस पर विचार करेगी कि मिलों के प्रबन्ध में मजदूरों को भागीदार बनाया जाए, उनके

सुनाफे में मजदूरों को भागीदार बनाया जाए और इस प्रथा को चालू किया जाए ताकि उत्पादन में भी वृद्धि हो और काम भी ठीक ढंग से चले?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : इसके अन्दर वह बात नहीं आती है। हम तो चाहते हैं कि उनको भागीदार करें। लेकिन वह प्रणाली अलग अलग यूनिटों के लिए अलग अलग तरीके की होती है। इस से इसका कोई मतलब नहीं है।

Shri Thimmiah: Has it come to the notice of Government that two textile mills at Bangalore have been closed down and the workers are carrying on a hunger strike? It is of great concern for the State Government and the members of the State Assembly are also agitated that it should be taken over by Government. Has any remedial step been taken by Government or has any step been suggested to the State Government to remedy the situation?

Shri Manubhai Shah: One question has come to our notice in the Bangalore mill where we have suggested that if after proper examination the unit is found to be economically workable, the State and the Central Governments should take it over.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: May I know whether it is a fact that the majority of the mills that have been closed down have been closed down due to mismanagement and corruption in the management? If it is so, why is so much time taken by Government to take over the concerns or at least to take some action against them under the Company Law Administration?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That has been the whole history. We have taken prompt action....

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: What is the prompt action? For years, it has been hanging on.

Shri Manubhai Shah: Out of more than 600 or 700 units, the House will appreciate that the entire question relates to about 19 mills which have closed down. Out of these 19 mills, 14 mills have been taken over to be run by the Government. The House will appreciate that those mills were completely defunct, where machinery has been 50 or 75 or 100 years old, due to mismanagement as well as the low productivity of the old machinery. They have got to be allowed to die out.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: Last week, the Minister for Commerce, in reply to a question, said that he will not give a directive to the State Bank of India to help the mills which are in need of finance. May I know what other agencies he has in view to help such of those mills which require finance?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The House will appreciate and I would believe that the House is jealous to protect the autonomy of the autonomous corporations established in the public sector. If the State Bank does not give money, we can use our good offices. It does not mean that we have always decided that we will not use the power of direction. But, by and large, where the corpus is not economical and where the mortgage and hypothecation is not found to be profitable, we should leave it to the discretion of the autonomous bodies whether to give the loan or not.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: हमारी कांस्टीट्यूएन्सी वाराणसी में एक मिल है, काटन मिल जो कि ग्राज 12 वर्ष से बन्द है, क्या सरकार उसको लेने की कृपा करेगी ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह: उसको बट्टे खाते गिन लिया जाय । वह गई अब ।

Dr. Rajen Sen: After affecting the cotton textile industry, this closure has now come in the jute industry also. The Minister said that a ministerial committee has been set up to

investigate into this thing. Does the Minister know that the Laxmi Narain Jute Mills of Calcutta are being closed gradually along with other jute mills due to some reasons known to the mill-owners and, if so, what steps the Government is taking in regard to the closure of the jute mills, particularly in regard to the Laxmi Narain Jute Mills?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As far as the jute industry is concerned, it is continuously expanding and this year there has been a record production. As a matter of fact, it is the only industry, if I can say, which has far exceeded the Third Plan targets. Regarding the Laxmi Narain Jute Mills, it is a junk which has passed several hands and it has been transferred continuously as such. The only jute mill which has threatened is the Maheshwaridevi Jute Mills in Kanpur whose affairs a committee is examining.

श्री भागवत झा झाजाव : मंत्रालय के इन पदाधिकारियों की समिति को जांच करने के लिए किन किन बातों का निर्देश किया गया है? क्या उनको यह भी निर्देश किया गया है कि वर्तमान स्थिति में सरकार के पाम जो कानून है, जिस मजबूत हाथ का इशारा आपके उपमंत्री ने किया वह काफी है उनके साथ साथ व्यवहार करने के लिए या उस में कोई सुधार चाहिए ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : कोई कानून या कानून के नीचे की ताकत में कमी नहीं है। हाथ बहुत मजबूत है। लेकिन इसका मतलब यह नहीं कि सब को मुबकामारी करते चले। . . . (शब्दघान) जहां जितनी ताकत या शक्ति जरूरी है, उसका हम पूरा उपयोग करते हैं और यह एक ही मुल्क ऐसा है, यह मैं कह सकता हूँ कि जहां, जहां तक इंडस्ट्रीज का मैनेजमेंट है उस में सरकार ताबड़तोड़ दखल करती है, कहीं तकलीफ हुई या क्लोजर हुआ और जैसा मैंने बताया था पिछली दफा कि हम चाहते हैं कि इंडस्ट्रीज ऐक्ट का फर्दर प्रमोव-

मेंट हो कि जिसके द्वारा ऐसी मिसमैनेज्ड मिल जो सरकार अच्छी करके चला देती है, वह वापस उसी को न की जाय बल्कि सरकार अपने हाथ में ले ले।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to know whether it is a fact that most of the textile units in Kanpur, including the jute mill of which the hon. Minister has made a reference, are producing medium and coarse cloth and that actually they are very old mills. In view of this, may I know whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh or the Uttar Pradesh Government has asked for permission of the Centre to set up two new textile units in Kanpur to absorb those people who are going to be found surplus and, if so, the reaction of the Government, whether permission has been accorded or not.

Shri Manubhai Saha: This was our own suggestion to the U.P. Government that the only long-term remedy of Kanpur is to have two most modernised textile mills in Kanpur, so that the gradual deterioration of the old mills can be reabsorbed in these mills. As soon as the formal proposals come, we shall very favourably consider the same and sanction.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: On the one hand a Committee has been appointed and on the other hand, one after the other, the textile mills are being closed down. In my opinion, there was no necessity to appoint any committee because the Minister already knows....

Mr. Speaker: She is giving her opinion. She might ask the question.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: I would like to know why, instead of appointing a committee and delaying the matter, the Government is not taking over the management of these textile mills in their hands and is not supporting the various State Governments which have taken charge of these

textile mills; for example, in the case of Muir Mills of Kanpur, why has Government not given sufficient money to the U.P. Government so that they may run it and modernise it?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We have given money, as I have already mentioned, to 14 mills and another ten mills in Madras, Gujarat and Maharashtra are being assisted by local Governments. May I crave the indulgence of the House that where the money is not considered safe by examination of an expert committee, then the committee comes in. The corpus of each mill is different; the purpose is different; the liquidities are different; the amount of encumbrances and debts which are accumulated is different. We have to assess the corpus and if it is a solvent corpus, then certainly we give money.

श्री सरजू पांडेय : श्री माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया कि बहुत सारी मिलें बन्द हैं तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कमेटी के फैसले के पहले जहाँ मिलें बन्द हैं मजदूरों को कोई अन्तरिम सहायता सरकार देने पर विचार कर रही है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : जहाँ तक रिलीफ का सवाल है इंडस्ट्रियल डिस्प्यूट्स ऐक्ट जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य को पता है कि इस हिसाब ने दस साल पहले जो पास किया था उस में अनएम्प्लायमेंट और रिट्रिचमेंट रिलीफ की बात है कि दस साल, जिसने काम किया हो उसको ले ग्राफ कम्पेन्सेशन दिया जाता है।

श्री तुलशीदास जाधव : मंत्री जी ने श्री कहा है कि उनको ले ग्राफ कम्पेन्सेशन दिया जाता है तो जिस जूनी मिल शोलापुर का जिन्न किया वहाँ उन्होंने प्रोविडेंट फंड का हिस्सा भी नहीं दिया, ले ग्राफ कम्पेन्सेशन भी नहीं दिया, सोसाइटी का पैसा भी नहीं दिया, बर्क्स ने बहुत कोशिश की लेकिन अभी तक उन्हें कुछ नहीं मिला तो उस में सरकार क्या करना चाहती है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : ला के अन्दर पूरी ताकत है। जो लेबर यूनियन चली जाय प्राविडेंट फंड कमिश्नर और इंडस्ट्रियल लेबर कमिश्नर के पास तो वह सारी प्रापर्टी को लिक्विडेट कर के दिला देगे।

श्री तुलशी दास जाषव : अभी तक नहीं दिया ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : तो आपको कोशिश करनी चाहिये।

Industrial Estates

*1233. **Shri B. Barua:** Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment regarding the growth of Industrial Estates in different States has been made;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) whether any plan is in hand to vitalise the industrial estates for contributing towards national economy?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6120/66].

Shri B. Barua: From the statement it appears that from the inception of the Industrial Estates Programme in 1956, establishment of 442 Industrial Estates had been taken on hand upto the end of September, 1965 by the various State Governments and Union Territories, but they have been able to complete only 180 Estates and out of these 180 Estates, only 75 per cent of them have come to the production stage. May I know why is it that the progress is so slow?

Shri Bibudhendra Misra: It has been slow not because funds have not been available, but mainly because with the experience gained in the location

of industrial estates in the First and Second Plan periods, the State Governments want to be more careful.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Public Sector Products

*1230. **Shri Madhu Limaye:**
Shri Kishen Pattanayak:

Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1262 on the 25th November, 1965 and state:

(a) the reasons for lack of demand for some public sector products in the country;

(b) whether possibilities of finding export outlet for these products have been sufficiently explored; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): In reply to the Question No. 1252 under utilisation of capacity owing to lack of demand of the products was stated in respect of Pipe Plant Rourkela and Coal Washeries of the Hindustan Steel Ltd; National Coal Development Corporation; Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation.

(a) There is temporary fall in demand of pipes from the Pipe Plant from the Oil Industry. The lack of demand from Coal Washeries does not exist now. The demand for the coal mined by the National Coal Development Corporation and for the machinery manufactured by the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation continues to be low owing to fall in the consumption of the grade coal generally produced by our Collieries.

(b) and (c). Efforts are being made for the export of Pipelines to Australia. There is little export demand for the grade of coal for which the National Coal Development